

YADKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Yadkin, State of North Carolina, met in a Special Session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Yadkin County Human Services Building located at 217 East Willow Street, Yadkinville, NC on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Present were:

Chairman Kevin Austin
Vice Chairman David Moxley
Commissioner Gilbert Hemric
Commissioner Marion Welborn
Commissioner Frank Zachary

Staff present: County Attorney, Ed Powell; County Manager/Finance Officer, Lisa Hughes; and Clerk to the Board, Tanya Gentry.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Austin at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Austin.

ADJUSTMENTS TO/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Zachary made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Welborn second.

Vote: 5/0.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Proposed FY15-16 Budget

County Manager Hughes addressed the Board. The recommended budget for FY15-16 is balanced and was prepared in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The property tax remains the same at \$0.66 per \$100.00 of valuation. The FY15-16 Budget amount is \$36,438,273.00, which is a 4.26% increase over last fiscal year's adopted budget. This budget appropriates \$2,187,134.00 from the General Fund to balance the budget. Property tax revenue is expected to decrease slightly. This is partly due to the foreclosures that have been done and the Tag & Tax Together implementation. With Tag & Tax Together, the tax bill on a vehicle is not levied until the bill is issued. Sales tax revenue is expected to increase approximately 9%. This budget recommends a 1% increase for the Yadkin County Public School System. No increase in funds is recommended for Surry Community College. They will receive the same funding amount as this year. The new Agricultural and Educational Building that the County is having constructed at the Yadkin Center Campus of Surry Community College is expected to be open in April or May of 2016. Surry Community College will be using rooms in that building. The County will be responsible for all of the building maintenance and the costs associated with that. The County will also be paying the utility bills. The County will be providing lawn care and landscaping services for the Yadkin Center Campus of Surry Community College as well as for the new Agricultural and Educational Building. The recommended budget includes funding for a Performance Pay Plan salary increase for employees. The pay increase an employee will receive is based upon their job performance. The average pay increase is 1.5%. This budget includes a 36% increase for the County's Self-Insured Medical Insurance Plan. Also, included in the budget is a \$500.00 HRA contribution per fulltime employee. The budget recommends two new fulltime positions. One of those positions is a Custodian/Maintenance position in Public Buildings. Public Buildings needs the new position due to the heavier workload that will arise when the new Agricultural and Educational Building opens. The second fulltime position is a Real Estate Appraiser for the Tax Office. Due to some of the restructuring within Administration, three positions in Finance will be reclassified. The budget also includes reclassifying an 80% Health Educator position to a fulltime 100% Health Educator position. The Health Educator position is grant funded so County funds will not be used to make this position fulltime. Two Human Services positions will be eliminated. One of those positions is a vacant Child Protective Services

Supervisor position. The other position that will be eliminated is a part-time Fraud Investigator position; this position was created to last only through June 30, 2015. The budget includes replacing some vehicles. Some Sheriff's Office vehicles will be replaced. There will be a remount of an EMS ambulance. An Environmental Health vehicle and an Inspections vehicle will be replaced. The recommended Elections budget includes an increase of \$78,685.00. They need additional funds because four Primaries/Elections are expected to be held in FY15-16. Elections will also increase the rate poll workers are paid for training. Poll workers were being paid a flat rate of \$15.00 to attend training and this budget recommends the flat rate be increased to \$25.00. The recommended Parks & Recreations budget includes an increase of \$176,025.00. This will be the first year that the Yadkin Memorial Park will be open for the whole year. The additional funds are needed to cover the operational costs and staff costs associated with the running of the new Park. The County has applied for a Phase II PARTF Grant for the Yadkin Memorial Park. The grant, if awarded to the County, will require matching funds. Those matching funds of \$260,610.00 are included in the recommended budget. The software used by Permits and Planning is out of date. This budget includes \$50,000.00 to begin replacing that software with new software that will enhance customer service and efficiency. Also, included in the budget is funding for some facility improvements that are planned for the Tax Office, LPA Office, and Juvenile Services Office in the Courthouse. This budget is balanced and it is conservative. A Public Hearing is scheduled for tonight to give the citizens an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on Proposed FY15-16 Budget

Chairman Austin opened the public hearing at 7:18pm. The following speakers came forward:

Luis Garcia, of Boonville, addressed the Board. He read a couple of things from the Yadkin County website, including the County's Vision Statement. Vision Statements are important. When he reads a Vision Statement he looks at the work of the organization and sees how it reflects the Vision. He came to speak tonight on behalf of some of the migrant and minority community members. They would like to know why the Sheriff received \$4,905,393.00 last year and the Health and Human Services Agency only received \$1,509,943.00. They have seen an increase in checkpoints in their neighborhoods. After calling the Health Department several times today he was not able to get in touch with someone who was a Spanish speaking interpreter. More than 30% of children in Yadkin County live in poverty and that number is increasing. Last year 81% of all confirmed cases of communicable diseases were bacterial STD's. They have previously expressed their concerns of racial discrimination from local law enforcement. The Board keeps allocating millions of dollars to the Sheriff's Office and the people of Yadkin County deserve to know where that money is going. They want to know where the money is going because all they are seeing is an increase in children living in poverty, an increase in checkpoints in their neighborhoods, and inadequate health services. He spoke of some of the consequences that can come when someone gets ticketed. He pointed out that the Police Chief of Mocksville is being investigated for corruption and discrimination because people said enough. Today, they are here to say enough. They want their questions answered.

Bryan Southard, the Fire Chief of Yadkinville Volunteer Fire Department, addressed the Board. They have asked for a fire tax increase this year. They want to do some things that will lower their ISO rating. Part of the additional funds from the tax increase would be used for that. The other part of the tax increase would help take care of the extra expense of the price of doing business. Lowering the ISO rating will mean lower insurance rates for property owners in their fire district. He asked the Board to consider granting them the fire tax increase they requested. One thing they would like to do to lower their ISO rating will take a few years to complete. They want to look at their water points and see how many they have and where they are. Water points have to be certified in order for them to be able to use them and they may need to get more water points certified. He thanked the Board for their support.

Sheriff Oliver addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for their support in many areas. The Sheriff's Office budget does include funding for many areas of the Sheriff's Office, including Communications, Detention, and School Resource Officers. Those are very important programs. The Sheriff's Office has a Crime Prevention Program. A lot of their funding goes to Detention. One of their primary goals is to provide public safety for the citizens. He thanked the Board for their continued support in providing the

resources that are needed for them to do their jobs and make Yadkin County a safe place to live. The Sheriff's Office doesn't make a product, they deliver a valuable service. He appreciates the support the Board has given the Sheriff's Office in the past and their continued support this year. Chairman Austin stated there was an increase in the Sheriff's Office budget this year and a lot of that increase was personnel related. The Sheriff's Office health insurance costs have increased significantly this year due to the number of employees who work there. When the new jail opened, additional personnel had to be hired. This year will be the first year that the jail will be fully staffed for the whole year. Sheriff Oliver said the Sheriff's Office is now housing the female inmates in the old jail and the male inmates in the new jail. The County doesn't have to pay other counties to house our inmates now. As of about a month and a half ago, the Sheriff's Office has been able to occasionally collect revenue by housing a few inmates from other counties. In the future, whenever the jail is not full of Yadkin County inmates, he hopes to be able to generate more revenue by housing inmates from other counties. This will help offset some of the costs of operating the jail. A lot of the jail expenses are the medical and housing costs associated with the inmates. Sheriff Oliver appreciated the funding for inmate food and housing and the increased health care services that were included in the proposed budget. By increasing the health care services for the inmates, he hopes to be able to have more inmates treated at the jail and reduce the number of trips that have to be made to the ER.

Bradley Hardy addressed the Board. He commended them on all the hard work the Board has done on the Hospital issue. He thanked them for everything they are doing to provide a Hospital for the people of Yadkin County. He knows it has been a difficult trial. He thanked them for the Yadkin Memorial Park. He visited it and the Park was amazing. He didn't know Yadkin County could get even more beautiful but it certainly did. He was able to see that at the Park. He appreciated all the work the Board put into it. He said that he has absolutely nothing but respect for Sheriff Oliver but he didn't like the statement that was made about generating revenue from the jail by keeping the jail as full as possible. He understands what is being said about collecting rent money from other counties but he doesn't think that any community wants to make as much money as possible off of a jail. He thinks every community would like to see the jail empty.

Dr. Martin, Yadkin County School Superintendent, addressed the Board. He thanked County Manager Hughes for all of her work on the budget. He knows it is a difficult task, especially with everything that has been going on with the Hospital. He thanked the Board and County Manager Hughes for their efforts in working to get the Hospital re-opened. The Hospital is something that the County needs here. He appreciated them looking out for the citizens. He appreciated the money the County provided to the School System for an activity bus. That is something they sorely need. They want to provide the children with the best and safest transportation possible. He thanked the Board for all that they do to support the children of Yadkin County.

No further speakers came forward. Chairman Austin closed the public hearing at 7:36pm.

BOARD ACTION

Consider Proposed FY15-16 Budget

The Board discussed the budget. Chairman Austin commented on the ISO rating that Bryan Southard spoke about. The Board is interested in helping to get the ISO rating down but they aren't sure that a permanent tax increase is the answer. The Board wants to hear more about what can be done to lower the ISO rating. Chairman Austin was amazed that the budget was put together without a tax increase. That is very commendable. Vice Chairman Moxley stated that County Manager Hughes did a great job on preparing the budget like the Commissioners requested at the budget retreat. The County is coming up on revaluation and it is not known at this time what effect that will have on taxes. Revaluation may cause an increase in the tax based funding that the fire departments receive. The County has seen a substantial increase in sales tax revenue and the fire departments receive a percentage of that. The Yadkinville Fire Department's budget request for next year estimated the sales tax revenue they would receive to be approximately \$26,000.00 to \$28,000.00. County Manager Hughes said that they will receive at least \$32,000.00 in sales tax revenue this year. That is already more than they estimated for next year. Their budget request included an expense of approximately \$3,000.00 to establish a water point. They should receive enough sales tax revenue to cover the water point expense. The legislature is looking at changing

how sales tax is distributed among the counties and that could possibly increase the portion that Yadkin County receives in the future. Commissioner Zachary thanked County Manager Hughes for her work on the budget. He appreciates her being able to keep the tax rate the same as it is now. **Vice Chairman Moxley made a motion to adopt the budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 as presented. Commissioner Hemric second.**
Vote: 5/0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Welborn thinks that it is a good budget. He wasn't sure how County Manager Hughes was able to get it done as well as she did with everything else that was going on.

Vice Chairman Zachary thanked everyone for being here tonight. There have been times in the past when this room wasn't big enough to hold everyone. That was not the case tonight though. He was glad to see those who came.

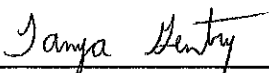
Commissioner Moxley thanked everyone for coming out tonight, especially the ones that spoke. The Board listens to what the speakers have to say. They keep the comments in mind and try to address them in the future. Sometimes there is not an easy answer. The Board tries to the best of their ability to be good stewards of the citizen's money.


Commissioner Hemric thanked everyone for coming out this evening. He thanked everyone that spoke tonight. He gave a special thanks to County Manager Hughes for preparing the budget under the circumstances. She has had a lot to do.

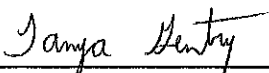
Chairman Austin thanked everyone who came. He thanked those who made comments tonight. He appreciated Luis Garcia pointing out the County's Vision Statement. The Board does their best to live that every day and to take it into consideration with every decision that they make. He promised the Board would continue to do that and hopefully improve the lives of the citizens of Yadkin County. That is their objective. There are a lot of demands and the Board will do their best to meet them. He feels pretty good about this budget and the way it is structured. Now the County will wait to see what the General Assembly does with the State budget.

Chairman Austin made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (1)(3)(4)(5)(6) to discuss Personnel Matters and to Protect Personnel Information that is Confidential under NCGS 153A-98, and to discuss the potential Location or Expansion of Industries or other Businesses in the County, to Establish the County's Negotiating Position for Acquiring Real Property and to Instruct the County Staff on that Position, and to have a Privileged Consultation with our County Attorney. Commissioner Zachary second.
Vote: 5/0

Commissioner Hemric made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Moxley second.
Vote: 5/0.


Prepared by Tanya Gentry
Deputy Clerk to the Board


Kevin Austin, Chairman
Yadkin County Board of
Commissioners


7/20/15
Date approved by the
Yadkin County Board of Commissioners